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**Subject:** [External] Breathing is a Risk in Orlando's Poorest Neighborhoods; Polluters, Environmental Groups Form New Coalition to Lobby State Government in NC

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Breathing is a Risk in Orlando's Poorest Neighborhoods;  
Polluters, Environmental Groups Form New Coalition to  
Lobby State Government in NC

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January 30, 2018

*Critical information about the environment delivered weekly*



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*"We stand now where two roads diverge. But unlike the roads in Robert Frost's familiar poem, they are not equally fair. The road we have long been traveling is deceptively easy, a smooth superhighway on which we progress with great speed, but at its end lies disaster. The other fork of the road — the one less*

*traveled by — offers our last, our only chance to reach a destination that assures the preservation of the earth.” – Rachel Carson*

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## **Even Breathing is a Risk in One of Orlando’s Poorest Neighborhoods**

“They are not following science in the way they should,” said a professor of biostatistics at the Harvard, in reference to the Trump administration. “They’re going in the opposite direction.” The Harvard study didn’t look into why black people might be more vulnerable to fine particulate matter. Dominici, the lead scientist, said other research suggests that less access to health care and higher rates of health problems in general can increase the mortality rates within communities of color.



Last year, [a federally funded study](#) found that people of color were exposed to more transportation-related pollution than white people. Read more at the [Huffington Post](#).

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## In Search Of Ethical Fashion



Put your money where your mouth is... your clothes too. “On brand websites from H&M to

Gap to Gucci, you’ll find phrases like “innovative materials,” “sustainably sourced,” and “enhancing transparency.” But when it comes to finding out whether companies actually walk their sustainable talk, there may still be problems behind their promises. In short, consumers still need to do research when shopping their values.

When you need clothes, first consider buying secondhand ([here are some online stores we recommend](#)). If you need to shop new, use the tips below to make your purchases better for workers and the Earth.” Things to consider before purchasing/wearing: laborers, find better fabrics, avoid certain fabrics, beware of toxic dye and finishes, and certifications. Read further at [Green America](#).

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## Strange Bedfellows? Polluters, Environmental Groups Form New Coalition to Lobby State Government

With NC DEQ’s recent decision to approve the 401k Water certification permit, it may come to no surprise





that days prior on a cozy autumn evening at the luxurious Umstead Hotel in Cary, a medley of corporate luminaries, state lawmakers and environmentalists made small talk and mingled over drinks. The occasion: the formation of a new “unconventional partnership” with a “bold mission.”

North Carolina Forever appears to invite the lambs to lie down with the lions: Environmental Defense Fund, NC Coastal Federation and Audubon Society of North Carolina, plus several parks nonprofits, are joining groups with dubious environmental histories: global pork producer Smithfield Foods, agribusiness advocates the NC Farm Bureau, mining and quarrying company Martin Marietta, and the NC Forestry Association, which represents primarily the interests of the timber industry. Read more at [NC Policy Watch](#).

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## Take Action: Stop the Destructive "Back Forty" Mine



Toronto-based Aquila Resources is planning to dig an open-pit sulfide mine 150 feet from the Menominee River, which runs along the Wisconsin-Upper Michigan border. This is an outrageous assault on the drinking water of a good portion of the upper Midwest, on the local environment, and on the Menominee Tribe.

Sulfide mines are much more toxic than your average mine. When sulfide ore (rocks containing metals and sulfur) is exposed to air or water, it creates sulfuric acid, a highly corrosive substance that's a component of battery acid and drain cleaners—and a suspected respiratory and musculo-skeletal



toxicant.

The Menominee River runs into Lake Michigan. Over 35 million people get their drinking water from the Great Lakes. Experts note that there are no examples of metallic sulfide mines that have not polluted surface and ground waters. Go to [GreenAmerica](#) and send a comment today!

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## Chickaloon Native Village in Alaska Fights for Its Future

Students at Ya Ne Dah Ah School, the only school in Alaska owned and operated by an Alaska Native tribe, display drawings of salmon.

Members of the Chickaloon Native Village worry about the school's fate if the Usibelli Mining Company moves forward with a proposed coal mining operation nearby. The students from left to right are, Jayden Harrison, Maya Boger, and Ayla Agnew.



Students at Ya Ne Dah Ah School, the only school in Alaska owned and operated by an Alaska Native tribe, display drawings of salmon. Members of the Chickaloon Native Village worry about the school's fate if the Usibelli Mining Company moves forward with a proposed coal mining operation nearby. The students from left to right are, Jayden Harrison, Maya Boger, and Ayla Agnew.

Today the future of the Ya Ne Dah Ah School is under threat. The Wishbone Hill coal mine, which sits directly across from the school, was granted a permit to operate in 1990 but lay dormant for two decades. Beginning in 2010, Usibelli Mining Company launched efforts to commence mining operations. They clear-cut row after row of trees and began building a road that runs almost directly across from the school. The road currently sits unused in the middle of a

sacred area, bisected by Moose Creek, where Chickaloon Native Village tribal citizens have gathered food, hunted and fished for generations.

If the federal government's OSM allows Usibelli to continue move forward, the future of the school – and this sacred area – is at stake. Take a further look at [Earth Justice](#).

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## **Monsanto's Fingerprints All Over Newsweek's Opinion Piece, a Hit on Organic Food**



"The campaign for [organic](#) food is a deceitful, expensive scam," according to a Jan. 19 Newsweek article authored by Dr. Henry I. Miller of the Hoover Institution.

If that name sounds familiar—Henry I. Miller—it may be because the New York Times recently revealed a scandal involving Miller: that he had been caught publishing an article ghostwritten by [Monsanto](#) under his own name in Forbes. The article, which largely mirrored a draft provided to him by Monsanto, attacked the scientists of the World Health Organization's cancer panel (IARC) for their decision to list Monsanto's top-selling chemical, [glyphosate](#), as a probable human carcinogen. Read more at [EcoWatch](#)

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## **Bayou Bridge Pipeline Faces Mounting Legal Challenges in Louisiana**



The 162-mile pipeline, being built by the same company behind the Dakota Access pipeline, will span southern Louisiana from Lake Charles, near the Texas border, to St. James, about 60 miles west of New Orleans. This route will cut through the Atchafalaya Basin, a national heritage area that contains America's largest swamp.



"If the Bayou Bridge pipeline is built, a 75-foot-wide swath of trees will be pulverized," Dean Wilson, executive director of the Atchafalaya Basinkeeper, told me, pointing to markers that surveyors recently put up along the pipeline route. The markers gave me a clearer picture of what will be lost if the pipeline is built. Read more at [DeSmog Blog](#).

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## **United States of Climate Change: 50 States, 50 Stories.**

### **Climate Change is Already Here**



To engage in a debate about the reality of climate change is to deny that there is a remarkably wide — and sincere — consensus among those who study the subject most intently. The basic mechanism of climate change was described in



1896, and while the climate system is wickedly complicated, humans' understanding of climate change and the factors which might alter or mitigate it has only grown over the past century. Read more at [The Weather Channel](#)

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Please join the Rachel Carson Council and Duke University's Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity. in exploring the impacts of the queer identity on the environmental movement focused on NC. We will begin with a summary of some environmental issues in NC and transition into a panel discussion with NC queer activists. You may RSVP via the [facebook event](#) or email

[Elijah@rachelcarsoncouncil.org](mailto:Elijah@rachelcarsoncouncil.org) if

you would prefer confidentiality. It will be held at the Duke Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity in the Bryan Center on 125 Science Dr. Durham, NC 27710.

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The Rachel Carson Council, founded in 1965, is the national environmental organization envisioned by Rachel Carson to carry on her work after her death. We promote Carson's ecological ethic that combines scientific concern for the environment and human health with a sense of wonder and reverence for all forms of life in order to build a sustainable, just, and peaceful future.



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